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Railways

Construction of a new railway line from Mangalore to Malpe.

*86 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government are aware as to which of the railway lines, viz., Mangalore-Moolky-Malpe (South Kanara district) or the alternative route Mangalore-Karkal-Malpe, has been decided to be constructed; and

(*b*) if so, when the work will commence?

A.—(*a*) No. The Government understand that a preliminary survey for a line between Mangalore and Malpe has been sanctioned.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

Mr. K. R. Karant:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*b*) of this question may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to get some information on the point?" 11-30 a.m.

The hon. Sir Thomas Moir:—"I am afraid that no information will be available until the preliminary survey has been completed."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"May I ask whether the Local Government has to be approached by the Government of India as a condition precedent to the construction of the railway from Moolky to Malpe?"

The hon. Sir Thomas Moir:—"I must ask for notice of the question."

Elections

Introduction of the Bombay system of voting by representation by symbols.

*87 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have taken any steps to know the working and result of the Bombay system of voting by representation by symbols and, if not, why not; and if they have, what information they have on the matter;

(*b*) whether it is intended by them to introduce that or any other system by which the secrecy of the ballot may be secured at the coming Council elections; and if not, why not;

(*c*) whether Government are aware that at election times even literate people are forced by threats of influential people to vote to their dictation; and

(*d*) if so, what steps Government intend taking to see that the secrecy of the ballot is maintained in the case of the vast masses of our illiterate people?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware of how the cross and symbol system worked in Bombay during the 1926 elections and have not thought it necessary to enquire.

(*b*) The Government have in the past carefully considered every aspect of this question and the existing regulation 24 (1), formulated after the experience of the last elections, is the result.

(*c*) The suggestion that even literate people are thus affected surely shows that the remedy does not lie in the use of symbols or other device specially designed for the illiterate.

(*d*) See the answer to clause (*b*).

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Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" With reference to clause (*a*), may I ask whether this Government will take some trouble to study the Bombay system of voting ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The question will be considered."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I ask whether the Government have considered the statements made in the course of the discussion of this very question in March 1927 ? I made a complaint and various hon. Members including the hon. Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar who was then sitting with us complained that even the elementary school teachers, not to speak of illiterate people, were forced by the threat of the candidates and their agents, to declare that they were illiterate and give out the names of the candidates for whom they were voting. Have the Government enquired into this question and do they think that the Bombay system of voting would obviate this difficulty ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that this Regulation 24 (1) has been considered by the House to be unsatisfactory ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government think that there is no other alternative."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Are the Government aware that in the resolution passed by this House, the Government were asked to consider the methods of voting in vogue in other provinces and whether they have done so ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Does not the Government consider that it is absolutely necessary in the public interest that secrecy of ballot should be maintained by some means or another ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know what steps the Government are taking to see that the secrecy of the ballot is maintained ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The difficulty, as I have said, is that there is no better method available than the one described in Rule 24 (1). If hon. Member would propose a better method, I am prepared to consider it."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Recently the Mysore Government adopted the method of voting by single system. Is he aware of it ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No. I am not aware of it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the Government propose to issue orders, in view of the extension of life of this House, to the authorities to prepare the list more carefully ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No ; there is no necessity for it."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" As regards the electoral roll for the University constituency, may I ask whether the Government have any intention of having the roll revised with a view to include men and women who will become qualified owing to the postponement of the elections but who would not be qualified if the elections had been held in due course ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Preparation of electoral rolls for the election of M.L.C's. and M.L.A's. in this Presidency.

*88 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to my token motion in connexion with the budget grant for elections on 16th March 1929 (L.C.P. XLVIII-297), will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the preparation of up-to-date, full and correct electoral rolls for the election of M.L.C's. and M.L.A's. in this Presidency?

A.—The procedure laid down in the Electoral Rules and Regulations has been followed in the revision of the electoral rolls. The Government have impressed on all Registration Officers the importance of seeing that the rolls are as complete as possible and that all persons appearing to be entitled to be registered as electors are included in them.

The attention of the hon. Member is also invited to the circulars issued by the Government from time to time on the subject which have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* (notification cited in the margin).

* (i) Notification No. 33 on page 961 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st May 1929.
(ii) Notification No. 37 on page 1010 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 28th May 1929.
(iii) Notification No. 38, dated 27th May 1929, in the Supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th June 1929.
(iv) Notification No. 58, dated 22nd July 1929, on page 1394 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd July 1929.

Interference of Government servants in elections.

*89 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any instructions have been issued definitely to all officials under Government and under local bodies not to interfere in the ensuing elections ;

(*b*) whether Government have instructed their own officers not to transfer their subordinates with a view to help candidates of particular parties ; and

(*c*) whether the instructions issued by the Government will be laid on the table of this House ?

A.—(*a*) Such instructions were issued before previous elections and the issue of similar instructions before the next election will be considered when the date of that election has been decided.

(*b*) & (*c*) See the answer to clause (*a*).

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the instructions suggested in clause (*b*) of my question were issued last time and whether such instructions are proposed to be issued this time also ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered."